



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 01/13/2019
DISCUSSION DATE: 01/20/2019
TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-30 & JOHN 15:1-11

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Worship is inherently participatory.

Our spiritual lives and well-being are inextricably intertwined.

Self-Examination is commanded.

There are serious consequences for perverting worship.

II. EXAMINING THE GOOD FRUIT OF A CHRIST-LIKE DISCIPLE.

A. Christ's Disciples (His branches) will bear evident Fruit.

1. The Vinedresser (The Father) – Removes the dead wood.
2. The Vinedresser (The Father) – Prunes the living branches, enabling them to bear more fruit.
3. The True Vine (Jesus) is the source of fruit – He enables His branches.
4. The responsibility of the Living Branches – what must we do to bear evident fruit – ABIDE in Jesus.

B. How do we know if we are abiding in Jesus? What are the activities of a Christ-like disciple?

1. Abiding branches are nourished through the WORD.
2. Abiding branches are persistent in prayer.
3. Abiding branches maintain first love devotion to Jesus.

C. The blessings of Abiding in Jesus.

1. God is glorified by answering prayer.
2. God is glorified by the transformed lives of Christ-like disciples.
3. God is glorified by sharing His joy with Christ-like disciples.

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM TO APPLY HIS WORD IN OUR DAILY LIVES



1. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-22.** What sin(s) did Paul have to confront in the church at Corinth? What was their fundamental failure?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.** What does Paul's use of the plural 2nd person pronoun (you) teach us about the Lord's Table? How is the spiritual well-being of the body intertwined? How do we help others grow? How do others help you grow? What do you seek to remember as your partake of the Lord's Table?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.** What do you seek to remember as your partake of the Lord's Table? How do we obey the Lord's command to examine ourselves? What should we be looking for? How do we avoid the judgment that came upon the church in Corinth? Do you think people fear participating in an unworthy manner?
4. **Read Matthew 7:15-20.** How can we distinguish between good and bad trees? Why is it impossible for a good tree to bear bad fruit?
5. **Read John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 9; 10:11; 11:25; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1.** What do these "I am" statements teach us about Jesus? Why do we need to remind ourselves of these truths every day? What do we try to do when we forget that HE is the vine and we are but branches?
6. **Read John 15:1-6:** Why does Jesus emphasize that the Father is the vinedresser? Who is being described as dead wood and what does the Father do with it? Why does the Father prune the living branches? What does pruning look like in our lives?
7. Why does Jesus need to remind us that we are incapable of bearing fruit on our own? What does Jesus promise He will do in the lives of His branches?
8. **Read John 15:7-11.** What does it look like to ABIDE in Jesus' WORD? How do we make this a proper priority in 2019? How does this impact our prayer lives? How does the Word inform our prayer lives? Why do abiding disciples persist in prayer? How can we grow our persistence in prayer? What does abiding in Jesus' love look like in our lives?
9. Why does Jesus want us to be persistent in prayer? How is the Father most glorified by His children? Why are love and obedience intertwined? How can we experience the Joy that Jesus intends for us to taste now? How should such fullness of joy be displayed in our lives?